

In. re. Docket 02-98
DA 02-136, RM-10209

I would like to add my support to the proposed allocation to the Amateur Service of 5250 - 5400 kHz (60 meters). Shortwave broadcast stations have made a large part of 40 meters virtually unusable by United States' amateur operators from late afternoon and well into the night.

Opening 60 meters to amateur radio would provide amateurs with a frequency with decent propagation within the U.S, not just for experimentation and casual communication, but for emergency traffic. The latter use, in light of what Americans have been told to expect in the way of further terrorist outrages, is critical. My home is in upstate New York. On 9/11, I helped handle traffic and relay messages in and out of New York City on 20 meters. This type of activity is one of the cornerstones of the amateur radio tradition -- the amateur making his or her station available for public service in times of emergency. While 20 meters was reasonably adequate for some of the tasks amateurs faced on 9/11, I'd suggest that 60 meters, due to the presence elsewhere on the band of agency users, would provide an easier way for government and private sector operators to exchange vital information.

I would also like to note my opposition to the allocation of any sub-bands within the proposed 60 meter band. It would appear that 60 meter set asides are being sought by some of the same people who petitioned the FCC for similar allocations for "digital mode" (ie, CW) operations within the 160 meter band. Self regulation is another cornerstone of the amateur tradition. Setting aside a portion of what many of us hope will be a new amateur frequency, simply caters to a small group whose needs can be met by arrangements within the amateur community and without having to resort to further unnecessary government regulation.

Respectfully submitted,
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